

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

5:35 p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. David Osborne, and Mr. Michael Fain. Dr. Yan Sun was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Recognitions

- a. RIMEA All-State-Cole and EGHS students**
- b. International Economic Summit-Cole and EGHS students**
- c. American Math Competition & National Math Club students-Cole**

All students' were recognized and congratulated on their accomplishments.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular minutes for December 15, 2015**

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the minutes.

VI. Superintendent's Report

The survey for feedback on the professional development/parent conference day (November 25th) was distributed again. A total of eighty responses have now been received with 80% of respondents' providing positive feedback to continue this practice.

The Board of Education is meeting tomorrow with the funding formula workgroup for further discussion. The information will be shared with the Committee and Town Council when available. A pre-budget meeting is scheduled with the Town Council on January 11, 2016. The school calendar template should be released by RISSA by the end of this week/early next week. Dr. Mercurio thanked the town, administration, faculty, and staff for their assistance with today's election.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Item

a. Retirement-Joy Lonardo, Data Processing Clerk, Central Office

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to accept the retirement. Mrs. Lonardo will be recognized at a future meeting.

b. Field Trip-International Summit Students (EGHS, Cole)-Boston, MA

January 29-January 30, 2016

On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the field trip. Mrs. Page said travel arrangements are being firmed up and funds are available to assist students in need.

IX. Advisory/Subcommittee Update

a. Personnel Committee

The Committee met to discuss The Charge and logistics regarding the mid-year conference with the Superintendent.

X. Discussion

a. Personnel Committee Charge-First Read

Ms. Mark reviewed the Charge and noted the second read/possible adoption will take place at the next meeting.

b. SafeStop discussion

Mr. Patrick Gallagher gave an overview of the SafeStop program highlighting options and tiers of pricing. East Providence and Barrington are currently using this system. SafeStop is compatible with Versatrans, Ocean State Transit's software. Dr. Mercurio asked the Committee to forward questions to him.

c. Social Studies Curriculum Update/Revisions

Mr. McPartlin, EGHS Department Chair, presented updates/revisions to the Social Studies curriculum and discussed the rationale for the changes. Major changes

include moving Cole from three years' of World Civilization to two years and the addition of one year of U.S. History. The high school will consolidate three years' of World Civilization into two and the Early U.S. History course will shift from grade 9 to grade 8. Grade 9 will now have a yearlong course in Civics/Economics. Mr. McPartlin explained how the units would be designed around an inquiry-based model.

d. EGHS Program of Studies (POS)

Mr. Podraza presented a draft of the POS and outlined the proposed changes per department. If a department is not listed, there are no proposed changes. Mr. Podraza said all changes are budget neutral and will be sustained using 1:1 technology or existing materials. The POS will be voted on at the January 19th meeting.

e. All Day Kindergarten Update

RIDE is developing a pilot of entry assessments for kindergarten and has contracted with a vendor to support districts that wish to pilot. Dr. Mercurio, Mrs. Vaughn, and Mr. Marcaccio will take part in a webinar next Tuesday. Dr. Mercurio will report back on January 19th. Mr. Messore, Barrington Principal and Mr. Tarro, Barrington Business Manager, will tour Cole Middle School on Friday. Jay Gowell, former Building Committee Chair will be present to answer questions regarding the building design. Dr. Mercurio will also

discuss Barrington's full day kindergarten program including the typical school day, use of interns vs. paraprofessionals, etc. Dr. Gifford requested a presentation on full day kindergarten detailing what a typical day would look like. She questioned the necessity for itinerant classes and asked if these classes replace activities such as free play, nap time, etc. She also asked for the budget implications.

f. School Start Time-Final Report (Update)

The third party transportation review should be ready for the January 19th meeting. The police department is reviewing the proposed bus stops for safety, especially where stops are moving from neighborhoods to main roads. Dr. Mercurio reported thirty-eight students use transportation to Our Lady of Mercy (OLM).

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY